THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) . (a) and (b) It is defficult to ascertain the precise number of terrorists who tried to intrude into the Indian territory during 1996 with a motive to indulge in sabotage. However, during 1996, 2940 terrorists/militants were apprehended and 1445 got killed while intruding through Indo-Pak border including Line of Control in J&K.

(c) and (d) Pak infiltrators have suffered heavy losses recently as indicated above.

Contribution of Agriculture in GDP

2602. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the agriculture sector contributes 30 per cent to the Gross Domestic Product;

(b) if so, the extent to which it is attributable to the archaic laws governing agriculture and lack of land reforms; and

(c) the comprehensive measures contemplated to give agriculture its due place in the economy?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) As per quick estimates of National Accounts, released by Central Statistical Organisation, the contribution for agriculture and allied sectors during 1995-96 was 27% in the total Gross Domestic Product.

(b) The decline in share of agriculture in the total Gross Domestic Product over years is on account of relative higher growth in other sectors of the economy as has happened in all the economies of the world in the process of their development.

(c) The Government is implementing various crop specific and sector specific schemes, providing market and price support, making available the required inputs like fertilisers, seeds, credit etc. at affordable rates, increasing the irrigation potential, etc. so as to have faster diffusion of technology and higher rate of growth in agricultural products.

Octroi and Transit Insurance Reimbursement

2603. SHRI SANAT MEHTA :
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has requested the Union Government to fully settle the octori and transit insurance reimbursement claims in respect of the Levy Sugar Price Utilisation Fund as per the guidelines issued by the Union Government on October 18, 1972;

(b) whether the State Government has stopped the practice of collection of octroi and transit insurance charged by the levy sugar nominee with effect from 1.4.1993; and

(c) if so, the decision taken by the Government in regard to the past arrears of the claims amounting to Rs. 3.86 crore preferred by the Gujarat State Civil Supplies Corporation Limited on the Food Corporation of India?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) The Government of Gujarat have requested the Central Government to permit reimbursement of Octroi and transit risk insurance in respect of the margins for distribution of levy sugar.

(c) Levy Sugar is sold through the Public Distribution System at lower than the market price so that it may remain affordable. The issue price of the sugar sold under PDs is the same throughout the country. To avoid distortions in this price structure, levy of local taxes and duties is discouraged and for this reason the Government has not agreed to reimbursement of octoroi while fixing the margins admissible to the State nominees.

Training to Youth in Fire-Arms

2604. SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any instance of training of youth in fire-arms by some private dals or senas in Uttar Pradesh came to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such training is permitted under the law; and

(d) if not, the steps taken by the Government to stop such training?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Pollution in Delhi

2605. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether as per the study conducted at the Tata Energy Research Institute some of the harmful pollutants in Delhi's air, responsible for respiratory disorders, will continue to increase till the turn of the century even if the Government were to introduce cleaner technologies and reduce road traffic congestion; and

(b) if so, the outcome of this study and the reaction of Government thereon?